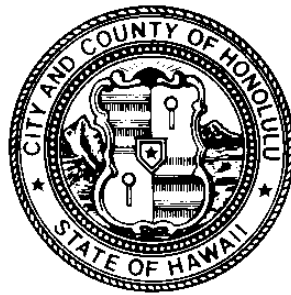


**GENERAL SAFETY
TAILGATE LESSON PLAN**

Household Chemical Safety



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Division of Industrial Safety and Workers' Compensation

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL SAFETY

WHAT'S ON A LABEL?

Many household chemicals are used in our work environment. We often take labels for granted — instead of taking advantage of all the information they provide.

Labels on household cleaning product packages contain just about everything we need to know about a product and its safe and effective use. Use them as a resource for answers to your questions! Look for some or all of the following:

1. Product Name

Identifies the product. Generally the brand name or the generic name of the product.

2. Product Type

Identifies the type of product it is. For example: an all purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, disinfectant cleaner, etc.

3. Directions for Use

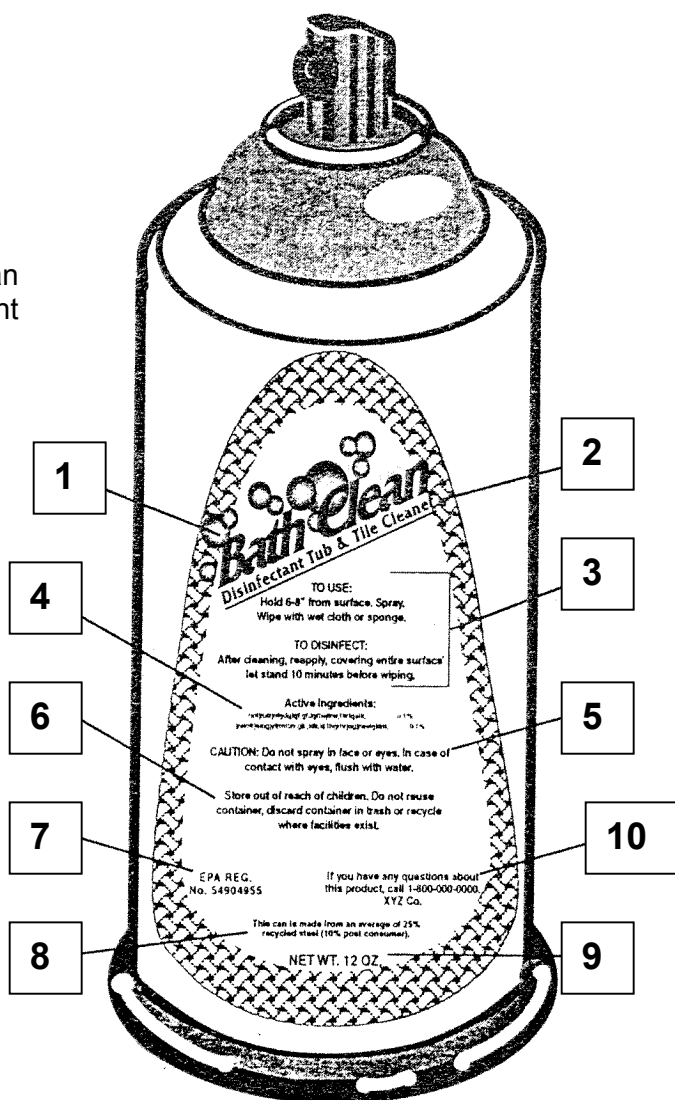
Explains how to use the product for satisfactory results. For example: how much should be used, what fabrics, dishes or surfaces it should be used on, and when it should be used.

4. Ingredients

Explains what chemicals make up the product. For disinfectants, the active ingredients must be listed. For other cleaning products, ingredient listings aren't required, but they are usually included anyway. And, unlike packaged food labeling, the order of appearance on the package does not necessarily represent the relative amounts of each ingredient.

5. Human Safety Information

Provides CAUTION, WARNING OR DANGER statements, as well as other precautionary statements and emergency treatment information. See "Human Safety Labeling" for more information.



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6. Storage and/or Disposal Information

Provides special guidelines for properly storing and/or discarding a product, if necessary. For example: store in a cool dry place. Rinse the container before recycling and/or disposing in the trash.

7. EPA Registration Number

Indicates that a disinfectant meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's criterion for disinfectants. Required by law for disinfectants.

8. Environmental Information

Provides special environmental information or instructions for the product and/or its container. Explains if the package is recyclable, if it contains recycled material and if some ingredients are biodegradable.

9. Net Weight or Volume

Lists the amount of product in the container. This is often helpful in comparing prices for different sized packages or competitive products. Required by law.

10. Manufacturer's Name and Address, and/or Toll-Free Number

Enables consumers to contact the manufacturer with questions, comments or problems. Keep a running log of all the products you use, for immediate access as needed. This is especially important in a childcare center.

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HUMAN SAFETY LABELING - How to Read It and Understand It!

For the consumer, the human safety information is the most important feature on the label. In fact, to ensure accurate safety labeling, the Federal Hazardous Substances Act governs how precautionary statements are used on household cleaning product labels. The Act requires that human safety information follow a standard format explained below.

<u>WHAT IT IS</u>	<u>WHAT IT TELLS US</u>	<u>EXAMPLES</u>
Degree of hazard	Uses a “signal word” to denote the extent of a potential hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* CAUTION or WARNING* DANGER* POISON
Specific hazard	Explains the possible consequences that could occur if the product is misused	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Eye or Skin Irritant* Harmful if Swallowed* Flammable
Precautionary measures	Describes action to be taken or avoided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Wear Rubber Gloves* Avoid Product Vapors* Use in Well-Ventilated Areas* Do Not Use Near Open Flame or in Areas Where Sparks May Be Generated* Do Not Mix with (lists specific products)
The statement “KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN” – or its equivalent		
First aid instructions	Included when necessary or appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* If Swallowed, Drink a Glassful of Water, Call a Physician* In Case of Eye Contact, Flush Eyes with Water for 15 Minutes
Appropriate handling, storage and disposal instructions	Included if relevant to the hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Do Not Reuse Container* Store Away From Heat or Out of Direct Light

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DECIPHERING “SIGNAL WORDS” - The “signal word” is the first and largest word in the Precautionary Statement

CAUTION or WARNING

A mild warning — and most commonly used for cleaning products. These two terms are interchangeable for household cleaning products, and mean that *the product is not likely to produce permanent damage as a result of exposure, if appropriate first aid is given*. The eye or skin could become inflamed, or adverse effects such as dizziness or upset stomach could occur if the product is swallowed. Many laundry and dishwashing detergents, disinfectants and all-purpose cleaners fall into this category.

DANGER

Indicates that greater precaution should be taken. Accidental exposure of the eye or skin to the undiluted product could produce tissue damage; swallowing the undiluted product could produce consequences such as damage to the mouth, throat and stomach; or the material could ignite if exposed to an open flame. This signal word is most often seen on specialty products intended for tough jobs, such as cleaning ovens or opening clogged drains.

POISON

Not classified as a signal word under the Act. However, it is the strongest indication of hazard, and is rarely used on household cleaning products. It may be found on household lye; some car-care items, such as antifreeze; on insecticides and rodenticides.

DO'S and DON'TS — FOR ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Here are some simple guidelines to follow to help ensure that accidental exposures do not occur.

DO

Store cleaning products in a locked closet or cabinet, away from food, and not accessible to children.

Store products in their original containers and never remove the product labels.

Product instructions, precautions and first aid instructions vary according to ingredients. It can be dangerous to use a product incorrectly or to follow the wrong emergency treatment guidelines.

Schedule routine cleaning of surfaces and dish washing when there is a lull in activities, such as naptime or when children are not in the room.

Put the product away immediately after removing the amount needed for the cleaning job at hand.

Rinse measuring cups after each use to avoid accidentally mixing products.

Be aware that some cleaning products - like oven or drain cleaners - present a significant hazard. Usually they are packaged in child-resistant packaging as required by law, but accidents can still occur if the container cap is not properly closed and if the product is not stored out of reach. Use these products with great care.

Train staff in proper handling, use, storage and safety procedures. Appoint a staff member to function as a safety officer.

Dispose of empty cleaning containers carefully. Use up all of the product. Follow label instructions for disposal of disinfectants. Replace the cap to protect children, pets and garbage handlers. Discard containers in a trashcan that has a secured lid.

DON'T

Mix cleaning products. Products that are safe when used alone can sometimes become dangerous if mixed with other products.

Mix chlorine bleach or any product containing chlorine bleach (some tub and tile cleaners, dishwashing detergent) with: ammonia or products containing ammonia (some hand, dish washing detergents or window cleaners) or acidic products (toilet bowl cleaners, rust removers); **dangerous gases can be released.**

Allow distractions or interruptions when using household chemicals.

Leave cleaning buckets containing even small amounts of liquid unattended. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that young children can drown in very small amounts of water. Be sure to empty buckets after each use. Never allow unattended small children around buckets when in use.

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WHAT IF AN ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE OCCURS?

Despite our best efforts, accidents do happen. On such occasions, it's important to act quickly and efficiently. The following guidelines should be followed in the event of an accidental exposure.

AN ACTION LIST IN CASE OF EXPOSURE

Keep Calm.

Check product label for first aid advice. Follow the advice, and then call the local Poison Control Center (PCC) at (808) 941-4411.

(While exposure to cleaning products usually causes no significant medical effects, always call the PCC for advice. They are trained professionals and are equipped to evaluate the seriousness of the exposure and its probable outcome.)

Give the PCC this information:

- 1) Brand name of product
- 2) Company and 800 number
- 3) Type of product
- 4) Contents as listed on label
- 5) Estimated amount of product involved
- 6) Mode of exposure (mouth, skin, eye, inhalation)
- 7) Time of exposure
- 8) Age, weight and general health of patient (be sure to include information on any health condition, such as diabetes, allergies, etc., existing prior to the exposure including medication being taken)
- 9) An accurate description of any first aid given and a description of the patient's current condition.

Follow the instructions of the PCC; ask questions if you don't understand.

Keep the patient under observation; immediately report any change to the PCC.

If the patient is advised to report to a physician, take along the product container and any vomit.